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cont.

- (d) fragments of the proteins of (a), (b) or (c) that bind IL-17.
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Kindly add the following new claims:

15. (New) A method of treating a mammal afflicted with diabetes, the method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a soluble Interleukin-17 Receptor (IL-17R) protein and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the soluble IL-17R protein is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a protein comprising amino acids 1 through 322 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) a protein comprising amino acids 1 through 320 of SEQ ID NO:4;
- (c) a protein having an amino acid sequence that is at least about 70% identical to the amino acid sequences of the proteins of (a) or (b) that binds IL-17; and
- (d) fragments of the proteins of (a), (b) or (c) that bind IL-17.

17. (New) A method of treating a mammal afflicted with Crohn's disease, the method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a soluble Interleukin-17 Receptor (IL-17R) protein and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

18. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the soluble IL-17R protein is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a protein comprising amino acids 1 through 322 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) a protein comprising amino acids 1 through 320 of SEQ ID NO:4;
- (c) a protein having an amino acid sequence that is at least about 70% identical to the amino acid sequences of the proteins of (a) or (b) that binds IL-17; and
- (d) fragments of the proteins of (a), (b) or (c) that bind IL-17.

REMARKS

Following the amendments, claims 13-18 are pending in the application, with claim 13, 15 and 17 being in independent form.